

Response to Office Action Mailed June 5, 2003

A. Claims in the Case

Claims 101-160 are pending. Claims 101-160 are new.

B. The Claims Meet The Written Description Requirement Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time of the application, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. To expedite prosecution, however, Applicant has cancelled claim 7.

C. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 19-21 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. To expedite prosecution, however, Applicant has cancelled claims 11 and 19-21.

D. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 11, 13-15, 17, 22-24 and 28-30 under 35 U.S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,380,295 to Ross. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections. To expedite, however, Applicant has cancelled 1-4, 11, 13-15, 17, 22-24 and 28-30.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 5-10, 12, 18-21 and 25-27 would be

allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 101 and 116, and the claims dependent on claims 101 and 116 (claims 102-115 and 117-130), now includes features from claim 8. New claims 131 and 146, and the claims dependent on claims 131 and 146 (claims 117-130 and 147-160), now includes features from claim 19. As such, Applicant submits that claims 101, 116, 131, 146 and the claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

E. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration.

Applicant respectfully request a one-month extension of time. If any further extension of time is necessary, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. A Fee Authorization is enclosed for the extension of time fee and the excess claims fee. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required, please charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5628-13301/EBM

Respectfully submitted,



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